

The Delicita Eagle.

Published weekly, except on Sundays, at the office of the publisher, J. L. Zimmerman, at the corner of 10th and Main streets, St. Louis, Mo.

Subscription price, \$2.00 per annum in advance.

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SOUTHWESTERN KANSAS.

THE ARKANSAS VALLEY.

The Land of Sunshine, Streams and

Natural Meadows.

Its Settlements, Towns and People.

A Fertile Soil and Genial Climate.

The land of green meadows, clear

streams, fertile soil, and genial climate,

and almost continual sunshine, South-

western Kansas, properly speaking,

consists of about fifteen counties, whose

territory is watered and drained by the

Great Arkansas River and its tribu-

aries, the Little Arkansas, the two Wal-

luta, the Cimarron, Medicine Lodge,

Cimarron and their hundreds of tri-

butes. It is a country 100 miles north

and south by 150 east and west. Being

but recently opened to settlement, it

is the pre-emptory and homesteaded

settlement of a portion of it, especially

Sedgewick, Harvey, Reno, Barbour,

Sumner, Cowley and Butler counties

has been wonderfully rapid. To this

country thousands of long eyes are

turned, not only from the older set-

tlements, but from some portions of Europe.

These people who contemplate coming

to the West, and to this, the choicest

portion of it, are anxious to know

more of the particulars, more of the

advantages of the Arkansas valley, than

have for decades past been set down

by the geographer and writer as un-
inhabitable. To newcomers, the valley

is a land of promise, and to the letters of friends alone

can these people, who desire to come

to the West, and to this, the choicest

portion of it, be made known. To this

end is this article compiled.

It is a fact well known to the gov-

ernment, as it is to all observing western

men, that the really valuable lands be-

longing to the general government are

now limited, and that the remaining

lands are rapidly being transferred to

private hands—the homesteaded, pre-

emptory and settler of the west. Out-

side of the Indian territory there re-

mains but a limited supply of really

good agricultural lands in all the west,

the choicest of which, for climate, soil

and water, is to be found in the great

valley of the Arkansas, in the counties

named above.

THE ARKANSAS RIVER

is little less than 200 miles in length,

being one of the longest and swiftest

running streams upon the continent.

Rising in Colorado, where it is about

one hundred and six and one-half

miles west of Green, and latitude

thirty-nine and one-half degrees north,

it flows in a southerly direction, and

springs that are fed by the melting of

the eternal snows of the Rocky moun-

tains, it flows constantly full, and

brings health to the lungs. In

such an atmosphere as here exists, the

system is invigorated, and labor is

neither irksome nor fatiguing. These

constant breezes also afford unlimited

and valuable power for windmills of

every description for all purposes.

CLIMATE.

Here is a climate which exactly meets

the requirements of the agriculturist,

whether he be farmer, orchardist,

stockman or shepherd. In early spring,

when the soil is freed from the slender

grass of what little frost it is subjected

to during the short winter, it is in ad-

mirable condition for plowing and

preparation for crops. Then comes

the season of rains and showers, which

lasts into July, when only occasional

showers occur to interfere with har-

rowing operations.

COAL, CLAY AND LIME.

There is no longer any uncertainty

as to the discovery of coal in this val-

ley. It has been found in several places

and there is not the least doubt that it

will be developed in quantities suffi-

cient to supply the needs of the coun-